Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] The above as well as additional objectives, features, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent in the following written description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

FIG. 1 is a diagram depicting example components of a <u>prior art</u> computer system;

Fig. 2 is a diagram depicting example components of a <u>prior art</u> client-server network;

Fig. 3 is a diagram depicting example components of <u>prior art</u> cloned systems;

Fig. 4 is a diagram of components of cloned systems of the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a flow chart depicting steps of cloning;

Fig. 6 is a flow chart depicting steps of cloning of the present invention; and

Fig. 7 is a flow chart depicting steps of installing drivers in a cloned system.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] Thus, all of the systems cloned have common software (with the same levels and versions of the same software). Cloning simplifies an organization's IT (Information Technology) infrastructure since all of the computers or workstations have the same software. A problem exists with this strategy since a separate clone image must be created to support different computer types and models, hardware configuration differences, device drivers and the like.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] Current cloning software does not address the issue of adding new hardware, driver, and application support to an existing image file. Since replicating system images (cloning) requires that the target system 307 and the source system 301 be exactly the same, large enterprises can sometimes have hundreds or even thousands of cloned images <u>317-319</u>~~219~~ on their servers 316 in order to have a cloned image for each supported system configuration. Some operating systems, like ~~windows~~ <u>WINDOWS®</u> 2000/XP from MICROSOFT® CORP., have imaging tools that allow a technician to reset the devices that had been previously detected by the operating system. By resetting the devices, the operating system can re-scan for hardware on the next boot of the operating system. Using this method, in a cloned system, requires managing the plug and play driver repository on the cloned system. In order to create a new clone image 318, the technician would clone a known image file 317 containing an operating system with installed and customized applications to a system, boot the operating system, manipulate the driver repository 306 that resides on the client 301 to include new or updated drivers, run the imaging tool, then clone the system image back to the server 316. When the technician saves the "cloned client system" to the server, the technician is saving a snapshot of the operating system 302, applications 303, and hardware support components 304. The snapshot is a version of the computers' operating system that can be cloned (replicated) to other systems that are supported by the updated driver repository 306 or native driver support built into the operating system.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] The WINDOWS 2000 System Preparation Tool (Sysprep) enables administrators to prepare ~~Windows~~ WINDOWS 2000 System Images as part of an automated deployment. Sysprep provides the ability to reduce the number of images required in a deployment by supporting multiple mass storage controllers. Sysprep supports cloning of a computer system's Operating System, Software and settings to create an image that can be deployed to numerous target servers or workstations. If the target system has different capability, Plug and Play drivers are loaded when the target system is powered up.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027]   One example of a self configuring computer system is taught in US Patent No. 5,668,992 "Self-Configuring Computer System" assigned to International Business Machines Corp. (IBM®). This patent is incorporated herein by reference. It describes a self configuring computer system which configures and loads appropriate software to support custom configurations without manual intervention by the user or the manufacturer. When the computer is first activated, an "interrogation" module is loaded that scans the system for components requiring specific software to operate. The interrogation module enables a startup module to select software from disk-based files including the proper version of the operating system. This patent does not discuss such functions as: creating a clone image appropriate for a group of computer systems, providing cloned images to computer systems, providing a separate driver table for finding appropriate drivers for the characteristics of a cloned system, adding drivers to a system so that the operating system's plug and play engine will detect and install the necessary drivers. It also does not address build time dynamic installation of drivers on cloned systems.

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended
paragraph:

[0039] "sysprep.inf" - control file for the ~~Microsoft~~ <u>MICROSOFT</u>
Clone Preparation Tool "Sysprep"

Please replace paragraph [0047] with the following amended paragraph:

[0047]   Referring to Fig. 5, the clone process begins by creating a clone image 501 of a desired system. The clone image is preferably saved at a build server so it is available via a network to target systems. The clone image could also be distributed by CDRom or other techniques known in the art. A cloning tool running at a target computer clones the image to the target computer. A program preferably comprising an interrogation program determines configuration information 503 (including ID's of attached devices as well as computer model/type and options installed information). The program in cooperation with the build server determines the needed drivers and configuration information according to the rules and downloads them to the target computer. In one embodiment predetermined tasks are performed based on instructions in the build rule. Drivers are transferred to the primary partition of the target computer system 504. When the system is rebooted with the clone image and devices 505, the drivers are installed 506.

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] Based on the Type/Model 325 detected, the interrogation program checks for a "rule" for the target system 307 and performs customizations. An example would:

1. Detect the target system Type/Model 325 is a 2366-97U (IBM ThinkPad® T30).

2. Obtain the rule 402 for the 2366-97U from the build server 316 which states a ThinkPad® T30 must have CD-RW software installed (even if not detected). This might be because it is a prerequisite for other software, or because the user will soon be getting a CD-RW device but it is not yet installed.

In the paragraph following paragraph [0050] please amend the paragraph number to -- [0051]--.